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**(10) International Publication Number**  
**WO 2004/026175 A1**

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**(57) Abstract:** A medical device including a fiber-reinforced membrane. The fibers can be embedded into or attached to the membrane to strengthen the device. In one embodiment, the device can be a vascular filter that is attached to an expandable frame. In one device fabrication approach, the device can be made by building it up around a mold. In addition, the mold can be coated with an intermediate material that is easily separated from the membrane material. The intermediate material is covered with the membrane material, after which the fibers are placed in contact with the membrane material that covers the intermediate material. The fibers can then be covered with additional membrane material to embed the fibers into the membrane, after which the mold may be removed by melting, dissolving, deforming or related techniques. Similarly, the intermediate material can be removed from the membrane.

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